



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

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Community Health Resources Commission Grants Expand Access to Health Care, Promote Health Services for Vulnerable Residents *Programs Projected to Serve More Than 23,000 Individuals*

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC), an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, recently awarded 23 grants totaling \$6.7 million. The grant-funded programs are projected to serve more than 23,000 Maryland residents by expanding access to health care in underserved communities, reducing health disparities, and increasing the capacity of safety net providers for vulnerable residents.

This year, the CHRC Call for Proposals supported three types of projects: (1) promoting the delivery of essential health services for vulnerable populations, including chronic disease management, dental care and women’s health services; (2) supporting efforts in local communities to increase access to substance use treatment services and promote integrated behavioral health, in support of Maryland’s ongoing efforts to address the opioid epidemic; and (3) promoting food security and addressing family obesity.

“These proposals are innovative, sustainable and replicable,” said CHRC Chairman Allan Anderson, MD. “The Commission looks forward to working closely with the grantees as these important projects are implemented in the coming weeks and months.”

More than 93 organizations submitted applications, requesting \$36.4 million in funding — the second-highest request total in the last nine years. When evaluating grant applications, the CHRC emphasizes public-private partnerships that leverage additional investments from the private sector to sustain the programs after the CHRC grant funding has been expended.

“The grants awarded by the Community Health Resources Commission directly support the Maryland Department of Health’s ongoing efforts to expand access in underserved communities, improve population health, and combat the opioid epidemic,” said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert R. Neall. “The work being done by the Commission promotes sustainability after the funding cycle ends demonstrating the benefits these programs provide.”

In addition to funding from CHRC, grantees have leveraged an additional \$23.5 million. Of those leveraged funds, \$19.7 million has been committed by local and private resources,

allowing more than 78 percent of CHRH grant awardees to sustain their program at least one year after the grant period ended.

In addition to the current grant awards, the CHRC has previously awarded 210 grants in all 24 jurisdictions of the state. Totalling more than \$64 million, these programs offer creative and innovative ways to address barriers that exist in underserved areas. More than 468,000 Marylanders, most of whom are low-income, uninsured/underinsured and face complex health and social service needs, have benefited from this funding. For a full list of past grantees, please [click here](#).

For questions, contact CHRC Executive Director Mark Luckner at 410-260-7046.

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The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement. Stay connected at <http://www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept> and <http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH>.

Marylanders in need of treatment for substance use disorder can locate treatment facilities at <http://goo.gl/nIfGm0>. Individuals also can call 211 and press 1 or text their zip code to 898-211 to speak with crisis call specialists. For information on current policies related to fighting addiction and overdose in Maryland, visit <http://goo.gl/KvEzOw>.

About the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission: The Maryland General Assembly created the Community Health Resources Commission in 2005 to expand access to affordable, high-quality health care services in the state's underserved communities; increase access to specialty health care services for the uninsured and low-income individuals; promote interconnected systems of care and partnerships among community health resources and hospitals; help reduce preventable hospital ED visits; and support the adoption of health information technology in community health resources. The CHRC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health, and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. In addition, under legislation approved by the Maryland General Assembly in 2017, the CHRC provides staffing support for the Council on Advancement of School-Based Health Centers. More information about the CHRC can be found on its [website](#).